THE PANICULUM

Disoriented Jet-Lag Welcome Edition

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 1, Monday 27th of June 2022

Calendar:

Mon June 27th Student Arrival Day - Check-in Porter's Lodge

Tues, June 28th Registration Day. Office opens after breakfast.

10:00am Optional Tour of Lincoln College. (This event is now full.)
1:00 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Making the Most of the Bodleian (Oakeshott Room)
3:00 pm Introduction to Lincoln College Library (Lincoln College Library)
3:20 pm Gather outside College Lodge to walk as a group to Convocation House, Bodleian Library. Bring passports please, and your unsigned library form.
3:30 pm Bodleian Registration (Convocation House, Bodleian Library)
6:00 pm Introductory Meeting (Oakeshott Room)
6:30 pm Opening Reception (Grove Quad)
7:15 pm High Table Dinner (Lincoln College Dining Hall)

Weds June 29 Classes begin Drop/add period begins (class changes handled through Dianne in Vermont.)

Thurs, June 30th 5:00pm Senior Meeting, Deep Hall

Fri, June 30 5:00 pm (EST, so that's 10pm to you) Drop/add period ends

The only things you need to accomplish on Monday are arriving, finding Lincoln College and getting your giant suitcase up the narrow staircase to your room. Good luck with that. Feel free to spend the rest of the day heavily caffeinating and wandering around feeling disoriented.

You do NOT have to show us a negative PCR or antigen test result upon arrival. Unless you really want to, in which case, cool, go ahead, I guess? But we totally trust that your bodily fluids are free of virus proteins. Well, mostly. But still…

Please mask up for the first five days. Unless you're outside, inside your own dorm room alone, eating, or drinking. If you're doing any of those activities, you can let us see your beautiful face. Just try not to breathe too much on anyone, OK?

After five days you can party like Boris Johnson during lockdown. We'll send a reminder email so you don't forget.[1]

Tuesday is Registration Day. Mandatory activities begin after lunch. However, you are invited to drop by the Bread Loaf office in the morning if you need anything. (Staircase 7) We have fans and teapots you can borrow (first-come, first serve) and we can tell you how to find things around town if you need advice. We also have Bocce balls. We look forward to seeing ~~your smiling faces~~ the top half of your faces, which we trust are smiling.

Speaking of the Bread Loaf office, we'll be open most of the week during general business hours. However, we're a bit short staffed due to some travel delays. (Everyone send Joan good vibes! Or drop by the office and say hi to her on Zoom!) If you have any urgent needs and can't locate a DA, please email Emily at zdyrkoem@gmail.com and/or send a message on BreadWeb. Also…

You should join BreadWeb. I mean, you have already whether you know it or not. (Thanks Tom McKenna!) But you should actually log in and start using it, because it has all kinds of useful features, like information about activities, a messaging app, access to Canvas, the option to create a group for your class, and a packing list, which at this point will tell you about the things you should have brought but didn't, like sweaters.

Meals are served in the dining hall at the following times on weekdays:

Breakfast: 8am
Lunch: 1pm
Dinner: 7:00pm (7:15 for formal dinners)

On weekends, dinner is at 6:30pm.
On Sundays ONLY, breakfast moves to 8:45am.

Formal Dinner: The opening dinner on Tuesday is a traditional formal dinner with a high table. Here are some guidelines:

- ★ Wear something nice. No shorts, ripped jeans, etc.
- ★ Following the introduction and drinks reception, the butler will invite us into dinner by ringing a bell. Enter the hall and remain standing behind the bench until we are all invited to sit.
- ★ You should have registered your dietary restrictions a few weeks ago. Your server will likely confirm this with you once you are seated. If you have NOT registered your dietary needs, you will be served a regular meal. The chef prepares a certain number of vegetarian and special meals ahead of time depending on the information we have provided, so **please don't steal someone else's meal**.

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[1] Except during your classes. You cannot, under any circumstances, be Boris Johnson in class. Also you have to wear a mask.

- ★ Please don't leave until all courses are finished.
- ★ There will be an abundance of wine. Pace yourself. You have been warned.

Off-Campus People are invited to attend the opening dinner on Tuesday, free of charge, as well as any other formal dinners during the session. (Most of them will be on Tuesdays.)

Laundry Cards should have been included with the paperwork you received when you checked in. You top them up online, and the machines are available in the basement of Staircase 8.

A Writing Center Announcement from Vermont:

We are pleased to inform you that this summer you will have access to the Ken Macrorie Bread Loaf-Vermont Writing Center through virtual sessions. The Macrorie Writing Center will be staffed by Vermont students who have undergone comprehensive training to prepare them to be peer readers. You will have the opportunity to bring your academic and creative writing to the next level by engaging with your peers for collaboration, constructive feedback, and reflection.

More information regarding appointment signups to follow. In the meantime, please contact Gillian Zieger (gzieger@middlebury.edu) or David Wandera, the Writing Center Director (dwandera@middlebury.edu), with any questions.

Safety: Despite the idyllic appearance, Oxford does have some crime. Please be mindful as you walk around, and do lock your doors and windows. If you'd like to store your passport or other valuables in the office safe, bring it on by. (Just remember to retrieve it during office hours before you leave the country.)

Porters….Upon arrival at Lincoln, you were greeted by one or several friendly porters. They can help you with a plethora of things, including room keys, stamping and sending your mail, giving directions, etc. It's also nice to introduce yourself, so they have a sense of who is here for the summer.

Deep Hall...is your friendly on-campus pub. Follow the stairs down underground from Grove Quad and have a drink! (You can bring it to dinner). Hours TBD, but we hope to see you there.

THE PANICULUM

Waiting for Joan Edition

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 2, Thursday 30th of June 2022

Calendar:

Friday, June 30

2:00pm EST (7:00pm GMT) Tom McKenna hosts a BreadWeb virtual orientation. Sign up here: https://bit.ly/breadweb101

5:00 pm EST, (10pm GMT) Drop/add period ENDS. You are committed now.

Monday, July 4th

Picnic. All off-campus students and families invited! Maybe Joan will have a passport by then, which will give us all something American that we can drink to.

Emily says you should still be wearing a mask. And I'm not talking about Emily Z in the office, I'm talking about Emily B in Vermont. You're sort of supposed to listen to Emily Z in the office, but you're *definitely* supposed to listen to Emily B in Vermont**.** She's the OG Emily.

After five days (ie, Sunday) you can party like it's 1999.[1]

If you haven't joined BreadWeb, you should be feeling major FOMO right now. There are people on there who want to be your friends, inviting you to do fun things, they think you're ghosting them, and it's getting awwwkward. Technical difficulties? Email Tom McKenna at tpmckenn@middlebury.edu

And now…**some very important public service announcements from Joan across the pond!**

Meal Opt-Out System

As we move into the regular day-to-day of Lincoln College life, it's time to set up the meal opt-out system. Each Monday we ask that you think about the next week and whether you'll be eating meals on campus. We do this to allow the kitchens to shop for the number of people eating, which really cuts down on food waste.

Each Monday, Joan will send out a google form (due on Thursday), asking you to opt out of meals for the next week. (you just received one for Week 2.) You might opt out of meals because of travel (everyone should travel outside of Oxford for at least one weekend, right?) or plans to

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[1] Except during your classes. In classes, it's still 2022, the world is still f-ed up, and Prince is still dead. Sorry. Also, you have to wear a mask.

have tea on the roof of the Ashmolean Museum (which I highly recommend). We understand that plans change and we support spontaneity, but we appreciate your taking a moment each week to think about the next week… and food.

On-campus students, please look out for a weekly email from me (Joan) that will link you to a google form. We really appreciate your assistance on this.

Editorial note: This is your best guess. This is not a blood oath.

Photos!

As we wait for Joan to arrive, we ask for a little help for one part of her job - Photos! Joan is our archival photographer and our Instagram curator. So for now let's use BreadWeb as a place to collect our memories, and, at the same time, give Joan fodder for starting a competition with Vermont on our Instagram account.

When you take that beautiful photo (especially one that includes your BLOX colleagues out and about doing BLOX things), please upload that photo with a description of what's happening to the the Photographs file on the BreadWeb resource page. You'll get a photo credit (include your Instagram account to let us tag you). Keep in mind:

If you share the photo, then you are sharing all the rights to use that photo and to let other BLOX folks download it for their personal purposes.

We are most interested in photos with people doing Bread Loaf-related things.

Let Joan know (BreadWeb is best) if you have any questions.

We now return to news from this side of the pond:

To those very conscientious people who checked in about the high table dress code, **you looked beautiful.** Work it, gorgeous![2] You'd better keep it up, because someday Joan will be here, and she will take pictures of you and put them on the internet.

Laundry Cards should have been included with the paperwork you received when you checked in. You top them up online, but here's the trick: Please select Oxford as your location, followed by the University of Oxford, followed by Lincoln College. Do NOT select Middlebury, because that was put there by the Lincoln Imp to trick you.

Deep Hall will officially be open from 6:00pm to 11pm on Tuesday through Friday evenings. It is our responsibility to keep Simon in business, so drink up, people.

[2] Is the Paniculum allowed to say this to students? Does this violate the sexual harrassment policy? Too bad nobody did the training this year. Please trust that all compliments are intended in the most professional spirit possible.

Important Bread Loaf Office Statistics:

Approximately **14 different bottles of vintage laundry detergent** have been claimed, each finely aged for three years in a cardboard cask gently washed in spilled conditioner. Should you still require detergent you'll have to purchase your own from Tesco. I apologize that it may not have the floral complexity of the 2019 varietals, but we can't all be fancy.

100% of available fans have been claimed. One fan remains, and it is for Joan, who deserves a fan. Because if you don't have a passport, you should at least get a freaking fan.

100% of hair dryers have been claimed. Look for the people with the best hair at breakfast, and you'll know who beat you to it.

4 electric teakettles remain for anyone who would like one.

70% of people who stopped by the office this week asked if they could have the Bread Loaf tote bag. Not *a* Bread Loaf tote bag, *THE* Bread Loaf tote bag[3]. Well- good news everyone! We are all going to FIGHT TO THE DEATH for the tote bag, Hunger Games style! No, sorry. The good news is that we are ordering tote bags like that for anyone who wants one. Joan is working on it from the States, and that's why she deserves that fan. Check BreadWeb to sign up.

Speaking of things Joan is working on from the States, **please submit your t-shirt designs!** Black and white images will show up best. jeweber@middlebury.edu by 5pm on Monday the 4th.

<u>Corrections and Updates:</u>

Weeknight Dinner is from 6:30 to 7:30, not 7:00 as previously stated.

Happy Hour with the DAs is being rescheduled, because the singular DA can only attend so many alcohol-themed events before you all have to read *The Paniculum: Cranky Hangover Edition*. When Joan arrives, we are going to take her out for the official Happy Hour of New Passport Celebration, and she will have to make up for all of the drinks she has missed so far in one wild night of revelry. Stay tuned for updates.

EXTRA CREDIT SECTION

1) Write a play about waiting for Joan in the style of Samuel Beckett, but make sure she actually shows up in this version, OK?
2) Write an angry/pleading/devastatingly compelling letter to Joan's congressman about how much you miss her.

[3] Featuring artwork by the one and only Dana Olsen!

THE PANICULUM

ALL HAIL THE ARRIVAL OF JOAN Edition

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.3, Monday 4th of July 2022

Calendar:

Monday, July 4th

6:30pm Picnic, Grove Quad. We're celebrating, ~~because we're not in America~~…ahem, because of America. Word from the kitchen is we'll be having a "hot finger buffet[1]" and strawberries and cream.

Late-breaking news suggests that **Joan has arrived at Lincoln College**. This is a developing story and we have reporters from the Vermont bureau[2] on the scene. Stay tuned for updates.

In related news, you're not allowed to print from Joan's computer anymore. Use this link to print from the Lincoln library instead. You can also send things remotely to the Bread Loaf office printer through the same link, though we'd ask that you only do that during office hours. Also, if you printed things about *Dubliners* or *King Lear* over the weekend, they are here in the office for you.

Office Hours are roughly **9:00-3:00pm on Monday-Thursday** and **9:00-1:00pm on Friday**. Occasional changes will be posted on BreadWeb.

You can take off your mask now. Make sure to reintroduce yourself to everyone, because they all imagined that the bottom half of your face looked totally different than it actually does. Except in class.

Also, be careful. If you have symptoms, please test yourself and socially distance yourself. There are antigen (ie, rapid tests, ie lateral flow tests) available in the office.

There will be some surveying work happening in Grove Quad on the 5th and 6th of July. If someone asks you to move off the grass please don't take it personally.

An Asbestos Management survey will be taking place on the dates listed below, which means that an engineer will briefly need access to your room. You don't have to do anything (they'll have a fob) except remember to not be alarmed if a stranger shows up suddenly.

Front Quad – 7th & 8th July
Chapel Quad – 12th, 13th & 14th July
Grove Quad – 14th & 15th July

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[1] Pretty sure the adjective "hot" is modifying the noun "buffet". But we have aloe in the office, just in case.
[2] Joan IS the Vermont bureau. She is multi-talented.

There is no microwave available. Sorry. Take a teakettle instead.
There is no high table tomorrow night. Sorry. Drink in Deep Hall instead, which is **officially open for revelry this evening.**

Meal Opt-Out System
Joan is going to email you a google form. On that form, you check off the meals you are NOT planning to attend at Lincoln the following week. It's your *best guess*. If you get it wrong, you still get to keep your soul/firstborn child/pound of flesh. If you get it *really* wrong, you still get to keep all those things, but you have to buy Joan and the Lincoln staff drinks. You still get participation points, though. Everyone who submits it gets participation points.

There will be coffee and tea available in the JCR after breakfast and lunch. Also, the JCR exists. Formally known as the Junior Common Room, it's right off Chapel Quad through the same door as Staircase 5 and has couches, TVs, and tables.

Please submit your t-shirt designs! They are due **today at 5pm,** though I'm guessing Joan is going to be jet-lagged, so maybe you can have a few extra minutes. Black and white images will show up best. jeweber@middlebury.edu

You can receive mail at:

(Your name)

Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English

Lincoln College

Oxford OX1 3DR

United Kingdom

It will go to the Porter's Lodge, and then will eventually come to the office, where we will keep it and remind you about it. You can try to intercept it at the Porter's Lodge if you don't want us reading your postcards.

And now, a message from our sponsors:

The Bread Loaf Journal invites all writers, poets, playwrights, artisans, and visual artists to submit works that explore the idea of **REFUGE** in any of its literal and thematic interpretations. Please submit a double-spaced Word document (.docx) in 12-point font with 2000 words or less. Remove your name from your submission and include a document title which matches the uploaded file name by **July 12** to https://bit.ly/bljournal.

Your co-editors,
Rachel and Mina
rnoli@middlebury.edu
mleazer@middlebury.edu

And finally…

A Short Guide to British Transportation

In London, the main form of transport is the **underground**, also known as the **tube**. That's the train system that takes people all around the city. You pay for it with an **oyster card.**

In New York, they call this the **subway**, or the **train**. In London, if you say "subway," it means an underground passageway that you walk through, and if you say "train," it means a railway train that goes between cities when there isn't a strike. You can buy UK train tickets at thetrainline.com.

Basically everywhere, the **bus** is a big vehicle that drives you around town. But in America, a bus might also take you across the country, whereas in the UK they call that a **coach**.

The Oxford Tube is actually a coach. There is basically no reason for this, except to mess with your head. It doesn't take oyster cards.

The Oxford Tube is not operated by the Oxford Bus Company, though the Oxford Bus Company does operate some coaches.

Also, FUN FACT!

An oyster card is so named because it suggests that the world is your oyster. Also someone thought the concept of an oyster conveyed security, ie, the pearl in the oyster. It is not meant to make you think of eating slimy mollusks alive, apparently.

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.4, Friday the 8th of July 2022

Calendar: There is nothing else happening this week. Go have a drink. Then go buy a fan, because it's going to be hot. How hot? We don't know. It's in Celsius and we're not math teachers.

Important Events Next Week:

Tuesday July 12th
Drinks Reception 6pm
Formal Dinner 7:15pm

Wednesday July 13th
All School Play (Richard III). Buses at 12pm and 3pm. **7:15 show.**

The noon bus to Stratford is full. That means if you have not confirmed a seat on that bus, you are taking the 3pm bus, which will still give you plenty of time to take a stroll through Stratford, buy yourself some Shakespeare-themed tea towels, admire the ducks, and have dinner before the play.

If you're not planning to attend the play please let Emily or Joan know so that we can judge you for passing up an opportunity to see incredible live theater that you've already paid for as part of your tuition. Just kidding, tell us so we can scalp your tickets for way more than face value. JK, so that we can trade in your tickets, get money back and use it to buy little tubs of ice cream at the interval.

No seriously, just let us know. We won't judge. We just don't want tickets to be wasted.

Deep Hall will be closed through the middle of next week due to COVID. Unfortunately, there are no other pubs in Oxford, so you will just have to be abstemious. Sorry.

COVID cases are on the rise. If you have symptoms, please test yourself and socially distance. There are antigen (ie, rapid tests, ie lateral flow tests) available in the office. If you test positive, please let us know via email or Breadweb so that we can ~~lock you away in the dungeon for five days~~ assist you with any needs that you might have as you isolate.

In Important Caffeine News, the coffee and tea in the JCR should now be regularly available after breakfast and lunch every day.

An Asbestos Management survey will be taking place on the dates listed below. We already told you about this, you don't have to do anything, but a stranger might show up in your room so don't freak.

Front Quad – 7th & 8th July
Chapel Quad – 12th, 13th & 14th July
Grove Quad – 14th & 15th July

BLOX Students of Color will be meeting **on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm in the JCR.** The first meeting will be July 14th. For more information, text or whatsapp Ella Newton at 7815215472

The Bread Loaf Journal is still looking for submissions related to the idea of **REFUGE** in any of its literal and thematic interpretations, which means you can probably find a way to make your work fit the theme. Submit by **July 12** to https://bit.ly/bljournal.

Summer Writing Prizes for Poetry and Fiction

BLSE runs two contests (with cash prizes) each summer for the best original poetry and the best original short fiction from a student enrolled at any of our campuses:

Robert Haiduke Poetry Contest: Enter one to two poems with a maximum of 40 lines per poem. Deadline: July 24.

Fiction Prize: Enter no more than 10 double-spaced pages. Deadline: July 20.

Please note that by entering the contests, you give permission for your work to be printed and distributed (and, of course, celebrated).

Email submissions to Karen Browne at kbrowne@middlebury.edu

And finally…Fun Facts!

1) Notable alumni of Lincoln College include Dr. Seuss, John LeCarre, and Rachel Maddow.
2) Lincoln College historically was known as a recruiting ground for spies. This is why the wifi password is so secret and hard to guess.
3) Howard Florey, notable for developing penicillin, was a Fellow at Lincoln. His picture is in the dining hall. He looks like Al Gore.
4) If you need to borrow a skeleton for some reason, there's one on a bottom shelf on the ground floor of the Lincoln Library. It's in a box conveniently labeled "Skeleton."

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 5, Monday the 11th of July 2022

Weather Report: Bloody hot.

Calendar:

Tuesday July 12th

Drinks Reception 6:00pm, Grove Quad

Formal Dinner 7:15pm, Dining Hall

Wednesday July 13th

Coaches to Stratford-Upon-Avon at 12pm and 3pm. Meet by Trinity College, right across Broad Street.

All School Play (Richard III). **7:15 show.**

Public Service Announcement: The all-school play begins at 7:15pm. It's not 7, it's not 7:30, and it's not 8. It's a weird time, so don't forget.

While you're in Stratford, there are plenty of things to see. You can see where Shakespeare was born. You can see where his wife was born. You can see where he went to school. You can see where he is buried. You can visit a museum that is actually a gift shop. You can also visit gift shops that are just gift shops. (No links needed. You'll find them.) You can visit the UK's largest tropical butterfly paradise. You can skip it all and have a pint. Or you can feed the ducks. You'll find them too!

Don't forget. **Richard III. Royal Shakespeare Theatre. (ie,big building by the river.) 7:15PM.**

Please confirm that you're planning to attend the play. Or let us know if you aren't. Send Joan a message on BreadWeb. We don't want tickets to be wasted.

Please vote for your favorite T-shirt design by the end of dinner tonight. We are down to the final two contenders: https://forms.gle/hSd9jUskmGWopH2WA

BLOX Students of Color will be meeting **on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm in the JCR.** The first meeting will be July 14th. For more information, ext or whatsapp Ella Newton at 7815215472

If you haven't noticed, British politics are all kinds of complicated right now. Season 9 of *The Crown* is going to be craaazy![1]

[1] Rashida Jones as Meghan, Kenneth Branagh as Boris Johnson (in a wig), and Oprah as herself. I want Vanessa Redgrave as Margaret, but I think she gets killed off in Season 6.

There will be a conference on July 27th. You will be invited to submit proposals by sometime next week. More information forthcoming from the senior class, but think about it now.

There are Bread Loaf themed coloring books in the office. We aren't sure where they came from, but they were in a box, and you can have one if you need a study break.

The Bread Loaf Journal is still taking submissions until TOMORROW. https://bit.ly/bljournal.

Need a printer? The link that was in your original welcome packet is slightly wrong. The correct link is:https://lincprinting.linc.ox.ac.uk Your username is *bread*, and your password is *Oxford2022*. You can print to the office or the library. If you need any more help, talk to IT in Staircase 4. You can ask us too, but we have the same degree as you do, and IT wasn't a group requirement, so we're not that helpful. We can give you moral support though. We believe in you. You can print! You can do it!

The Summer Writing Prizes for Poetry and Fiction are still looking for submissions. Send in your poems by July 24th. Send in your fiction by July 20th. Everything goes to Karen Browne at kbrowne@middlebury.edu. If you win, you get money.

The Asbestos Management survey is still happening. Strangers are coming to your room:

Chapel Quad – 12th, 13th & 14th July and Grove Quad – 14th & 15th July

And finally, to help prepare you for Wednesday, **a very short synopsis of *Richard III:***

A very long and complicated series of wars ("the winter of our discontent") has just ended.[2] So now, everyone is happy! Well, everyone is happy except Richard. This might be because he is disabled and has been mistreated and shunned for being different, or it might be because he's a misogynistic cranky incel asshole. This is open to interpretation.
Richard is so unhappy that other people are happy that he ***SPOILER ALERT*** kills almost everyone. Even his brother. Even his wife. Even some kids. He kills enough people that he ends up king, at least briefly, because there aren't that many people left.
Eventually however, people begin to catch on to Richard's bad behavior, he ends up dead in a parking lot, and another Henry ends up King.
There is now a King Richard III Infant and Nursery School in Leicestershire.[3]

THE END

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[2] Imagine *Game of Thrones*, but all 200 characters are named Henry, Margaret, Richard, or Edward.
[3] Thank you to Caroline Bicks for this information.

T H E P A N I C U L U M

Extra-Long Edition

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.6, Thursday the 14th of July 2022

Weather Report: Nice for a few days. Then apocalyptic. Get ready.

Calendar: **Thursday July 14th**

BLOX Students of Color 5:30pm-6:30pm, JCR

Coming Up Next Week:

At 5pm on Tuesday July 19th, Professor Emma Smith of Hertford College will be giving a lecture in the Oakeshott Room entitled "Is it Wrong to Burn Books?" This will be followed by a reception in Grove Quad and a Formal Dinner.

Emma Smith is the author of Shakespeare's First Folio: Four Centuries of an Iconic Book, This is Shakespeare, and most recently, Portable Magic: A History of Books and Their Readers. You may also know her from her podcast series, Approaching Shakespeare. She is also a curator of the exhibit currently on display at the Weston Library, Sensational Books. (This is directly across Broad Street and it's free. And you can find out what the First Folio and Magna Carta smell like! Check it out.)

Deep Hall will be closed through next Monday. It should be open by the 19th, which means you can drink to excess after three hours of free wine. Because part of BLOX is never starting a Wednesday feeling good.

There will be an Academic Conference on Wednesday July 27th. Here's more information from Michelle Hock and Beth Robbins:

Who: All members of the BLOX community

What: 2022 Bread Loaf Oxford Graduate Conference Symposium

When: Wednesday, July 27 from 2:00-6:00 (with reception to follow)

Where: Location TBD (somewhere at Exeter or Lincoln)

Why: To bring the BLOX community together to share our writing projects in the spirit of academic and creative discourse.

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, July 19. (Although we'll accept late submissions, we cannot accept submissions too close to the conference date for logistical and planning purposes. If you're unsure about whether or not you'd like to participate, please just fill out the Google Form by July 19 in order to indicate interest. Should you decide that you no longer wish to participate, you can always email us to let us know -- not an issue!)

Submission Parameters: You can submit anything that you've been working on this summer or have worked on in a prior summer and would like to revisit. This can include completed works OR works in progress. There are no thematic, topical, or formal restrictions, so please feel free to share whatever it is that you'd prefer! Your work can be analytic (e.g., literary criticism) or creative (e.g., poetry, short story, etc.).

Submission Requirements: To submit your proposal, you do NOT need to include a finalized paper/work. Rather, we're asking for just (1) a title and (2) a brief abstract of your work. (This information will help us to group sessions thematically. If your title and/or abstract change prior to the conference date, please just let us know as soon as possible.) You can submit your proposal using the Google Form linked above.

The Particulars:

- **Conference Format:** The conference will be arranged into thematically-organized sessions (usually 3 presenters per session) running for approximately 30 minutes each. This means that each presenter will have roughly 10 minutes to present their work.
- **Presentation Format:** The expectation for each presentation is that you will read a piece aloud to the other session presenters and to session attendees. Given the 10-minute time limit, this means that your paper/work should probably be limited to no more than 5 pages. If there is time at the conclusion of each session, attendees and participants are encouraged to engage in a Q&A/dialogue regarding the works presented.
- **The Presentation Itself:** You will have the option to accompany your presentation with handouts or visuals/PowerPoints as needed, although neither one is required.

One Final Note: We encourage everyone to submit something, whether or not you believe it is fully polished! The purpose of the conference is to build academic community, which means that if you submit a proposal, your work will not be rejected. :)

We apologize that the Paniculum is somewhat late today. We fell down a Richard III-inspired internet rabbit hole last night and never really caught up on things. Because why get work done when you can read about a peer-reviewed article on the intestinal parasites of Richard III?

And now, welcome to the portion of the Paniculum entitled Things We Already Told You About But Will Mention Again Just In Case You Forgot (Because we used to teach middle school, and saying it once is *never enough*.)

The Summer Writing Prizes for Poetry and Fiction are still looking for submissions. Fiction due on the 20th, Poetry on the 24th. Submit to Karen Browne at kbrowne@middlebury.edu. **Cash Prize**. Make it rain, baby. (With your poetry.)

The Asbestos thing. Still happening. Strangers could be coming to your room in Chapel or Grove Quad today or tomorrow.

Almost nobody has come by for a Bread Loaf coloring book. We also have crayons, but only a few. Come quickly, or all the colors you want will have been taken, and you'll have to color the Inn in burnt sienna and the Adirondack Chairs in periwinkle blue.

And finally…

Things to Experience in Oxford if You're Looking for Something To Do:

Go punting! Don't the people in those pictures look happy and relaxed? Doesn't this look like a charming and idyllic pastime? Well, just a heads up- you should actually expect to get covered in swampy water and have an argument with your partner about why they aren't good at steering. (Hint: because using a big stick to push a boat is actually a totally inefficient way to get around.) But have a pint or two before you start, or some cheese, and then you can just laugh instead of fighting.

The Pitt Rivers Museum. Imagine a huge collection of stuff from around the world, organized not by locale but instead by purpose. Also- there used to be shrunken heads there, but now there is a display about why there are no shrunken heads there anymore, which is still pretty fascinating.

Use your BodCard to get into places. See a place you want to go, but it appears to be closed? Pull out your card, smile, and see if someone will let you in. Sometimes this will work. You never know. Just act confident, walk fast, and act like you belong.

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.7, Monday the 18th of July 2022

Weather Report: Chapter Seven of *Gatsby.*

Calendar: **Tuesday July 19th**

5:00pm, Oakeshott Room, Emma Smith. "Is it Wrong to Burn Books?"

Special Drinks Reception to follow on Grove Quad

6:30-7:30: Regular Servery Dinner (Note change!)

Thursday, July 21st

6:00 Drinks Reception, Grove Quad

6:45pm Formal Dinner

You've probably heard this a few times by now, but **the plans for the week have changed.** Emma Smith's lecture will still be held as planned in the (hopefully cool) Oakeshott Room tomorrow followed by **special drinks.** (Rumor is it will involve that quintessential English summer drink, Pimms.) However, the dinner will be a normal weeknight dinner, which you are welcome to eat outside. Feel free to dress appropriately for the weather.[1]

We already gave you a bunch of information about Emma Smith, so we'll just sum it up again by saying she's kind of a big deal. *(In teacher voice)* You're expected to attend.

Formal Dinner has been moved to Thursday, July 21st. We understand that's a change in plans, but we hope this is better than watching your classmate pass out face-first in their pork roulade due to heatstroke. We'd appreciate it if all students could take a moment to fill out this short google form. It's the same one you received by email. No teacher voice here- we understand if you can't make it, but PLEASE let us know so food isn't wasted. (In addition to pork, I hear rumors that they will be serving Paris Brest. And yes we *did* make dirty jokes when we heard that, but it's actually named after a bike race.)

Submit your Conference Proposals by July 19th. What time does the application deadline close? We're not sure, but FYI Pimms can be sneakily potent on a hot day. So maybe send in your stuff before the reception? Or, if you're feeling nervous about it, just down a few cups, don't think about it too hard, and just hit "Submit." More detailed information can be found in last Thursday's Paniculum, or on the submission page.

[1] Within reason. Like, no bathing suits please. Or at least not until after the lecture.

In COVID news, we are officially at zero active COVID cases on campus! Whoo-hoo! We are beating Vermont! I mean, it's not a contest, but…we're winning.

However, if you need to isolate, Vermont has asked me to pass along these tips for a healthy isolation period.

Here are some additional unofficial isolation tips, not from Vermont. They are also useful non-isolating people:

Are you caught in the miserable vortex of No Available TV? You know, where your American account won't play because you're in the UK, but you can't sign up for UK streaming services because you have an American credit card? You can fix this by using a VPN service. It tricks your computer into thinking you are wherever you want to be.

If you're sick of the dining hall, you can order almost anything with deliveroo. It's basically Grubhub, but it sounds more fancy.

And finally…

Tips for Staying Cool

Go to Deep Hall! It's open!

Go to the lower level of the Lincoln Library. It's cool down there. Also, you can visit the skeleton and say hi.

Remember that in literature, heat does sometimes make things more interesting.

Just take that damn duvet out of your duvet cover and use it as a sheet. You can't even buy a top sheet in England, anyway. (I tried it for you. I couldn't find them anywhere.)

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.8, Thursday the 21st of July 2022

Weather Report:

Calendar: **Thursday, July 21st**

6:00 Drinks Reception, Grove Quad

6:45pm Formal Dinner

Yes, it is Thursday, and yes, there is a formal dinner tonight. It looks to be a somewhat intimate formal dinner. A lot of us can't make it- but Emma Smith can.

And yes, formal dinner is preceded by yet *another* drinks reception. In related news, Vermont has restricted alcohol at school events due to US liquor laws. So much for freedom.

Please submit your Conference Proposals yesterday. Actually, the day before. If you don't want to present, that's OK too. Clear your calendar for the afternoon of Wednesday July 27th, and you can come cheer on your classmates. There will be coffee, tea, and biscuits. (You can't have wine at every event. You have a final paper coming up.)

We are still at zero active COVID cases. You're doing something right. Keep it up.

The t-shirt order will be placed TOMORROW. We'd recommend placing your order by lunchtime. Also, please be sure to use all of your graduate student close-reading skills when you look at the order form. There are many options available, and it's complicated.

Degree Days will be held next week on the 26th, 28th, and 29th. This means that Lincoln graduates will be returning to Oxford in their subfusc and gowns, probably followed by crowds of cheering grandmas and parents taking pictures. Please don't get in their way. They have earned this day with blood, sweat and tears[1], and they deserve to enjoy it. For more information about degree days, see this. Watch til the end for the amazing animated Oxford graduate who forgot to use the bathroom before he entered the Sheldonian.

[1] I don't actually know about the blood and tears. But sweat, definitely sweat.

Aaaand now it's time for Bread Loaf history!

If you're curious about what's happening in Vermont, check out this online version of an exhibit currently on display at the Middlebury library. Don't have time to look through the whole thing? Here are some highlights:

In 1932, the play was Alice in Wonderland with creepy flowers. (Yes, those are faces.)

In 1937, it was considered completely fine to smoke a pipe, as long as you also turned your pants into breeches.

In 1954, faculty members were always comfortably dressed for a warm summer day in the Vermont woods.

This happened in 1963.

In the 1970s there were beards and afros, but absolutely nobody who wasn't a white man.

Finally, a PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

If[2] you have ever wanted to see a marble statue of Percy Bysshe Shelley's naked dead body after drowning, stroll over to University College. Bring your reader's card. Take a right out of the porter's lodge.

[2] Of course you want to see it. Who wouldn't want to see it?

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No.9, Monday the 25th of July 2022

Calendar: **Tuesday, July 26th**

5:00 pm Lecture Series: A Conversation with Polly Findlay, Oakeshott

6:00 Drinks Reception, Grove Quad

6:45pm Formal Dinner, Hall

Wednesday, July 27th

2:00pm-6:00pm BLOX Academic Conference, Oakshott

Editor's Note: We apologize for the delay. This edition of the Paniculum is brought to you from a train from Edinburgh. The wifi is spotty, the scenery is gorgeous, and we are easily distracted by sheep.

Anyway, back to Oxford…

There will be a lecture tomorrow, followed by drinks and formal dinner. Actually, it's probably going to be more of a conversation, but whatever it is, you don't want to miss it. Director Polly Findlay will be joining us. If you were here in 2018, you may remember her excellent production of *Macbeth*, which featured Christopher Eccleston as the title character, and terrifying little children as witches. She is also known for her acclaimed 2012 production of Antigone and the Olivier Award-winning 2011 production of *Svengali*. She's directed for the RSC and the National Theatre, and she's kind of a big deal[1].

If you really want to do your homework, all of those productions are available via streaming services. Click here, and here, and here. That's extra credit, though. It's OK if you just want to come to the lecture, listen, and have a drink in the general proximity of this very accomplished artist.

Don't drink TOO much on Tuesday, because the BLOX Academic Conference is on Wednesday. Schedule currently posted on BreadWeb. Come hear your classmates share their ideas. Oh, and if you do happen to be feeling groggy on Wednesday, there will be coffee, tea, and biscuits to keep you energized. I mean, there will also be a full panel of scintillating, brilliant and thought-provoking presentations to keep you energized. But just in case it helps, there will also be caffeine and sugar.

[1] This is basically true for everyone who's visiting us this summer.

There is still no COVID on campus. At least, none that we know about. If you want to prove us wrong, drop by the office to pick up a test.

Listen to whatever Joan tells you about t-shirts. Once upon a time, Joan did not manage the t-shirt process, and it was a mess.[2] Now she does, so read what she posts on BreadWeb and follow instructions.

Degree Days will be held THIS WEEK, on the 26th, 28th, and 29th. Please try not to photobomb the graduates, and be patient if some campus spaces are occupied.

And now, it's time for the Commencement FAQ!

Q: When is Commencement?
A: Saturday, August 6th, in the afternoon. It will be held in Lincoln Chapel, and it will be followed by a drinks reception and extra-fancy formal dinner.

Q: Who is invited to Commencement?
A: All BLOX students are invited to commencement! This final event is included free of charge for everyone, even if you are not graduating. Also, of course, faculty members, seniors and their guests will be there.

Q: Are guests invited free of charge?
A: No, guests have to pay. We'll be in touch soon about that process.

Q: But wait- won't space be limited? I heard there are limits on guests…
A: That's true- we're managing guest numbers due to COVID, and also because we have an extra-large senior class this year. Because of this, seniors and their guests will likely have first dibs on seats in the commencement ceremony in the chapel. However, we'll be streaming the ceremony via Youtube, so current students and extra guests will be able to watch from elsewhere on campus (likely Deep Hall or the JCR.)

Q: Can my uncle in Topeka watch Commencement?
A: Yes. Stay tuned for details on streaming.

[2] Some of us still own those rare collector's items, the BLOX tote bags featuring a purple-headed Alice in Wonderland.

Q: Will there be room for everyone at dinner?

A: If there isn't room in the Hall, we'll use overflow seating. (likely in the Buttery.)

Q: But wait, that makes me feel like I'm sitting at the kids table at family Thanksgiving!

A: Did your family have unlimited wine at the kid's table at Thanksgiving?

Q: Fair enough.

A: Also, if you were in Vermont, you'd be waiting tables. Don't complain.

THE PANICULUM

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 10, Thursday the 28th of July 2022

Calendar:

Thursday July 28th

SPECIAL EVENT! You, working on your final paper, Library.

Friday July 29th

Special Event cont'd.

Saturday 30th- Sunday 31st

Look on the bright side- the hordes of teenagers in backpacks aren't allowed in the library, and you are! You're special! Also, there is a rail strike on Saturday, so going anywhere would be a pain in the ass anyway.

There is no high table dinner next Tuesday 8/2. We have set aside that very special time for you to continue to stress out about your final paper. Or, if you're done by then, feel free to give Simon some business in Deep Hall.

Speaking of high tables and such, we want to know if you (yes YOU) are attending Commencement dinner. This is not just for seniors. In fact, we really need RSVPs from non-seniors right now, and then we'll move on to badgering the seniors some more. (Gowns, guests, money- there are so many things for us to badger you about, seniors!) So please- we'd like ALL students to fill out this RSVP form. If you're not sure of your plans, let us know and we'll set aside a seat for you anyway. If you don't respond, you risk showing up to dinner and having the awkward experience of not having a place to sit. (Yes, everyone will have a special name tag and everything. Like a wedding, but you get to sit with Bread Loafers instead of your aunt from Omaha who wants to know when *you're* getting married.)

Seniors, stay tuned for more questions, including your height, the names of your guests, their dietary needs and your credit card number. Oh, and we'll also need some cash. That's next week, though. Assuming you actually write that paper.

Also coming up next Monday 8/1 is a **Deep Hall reading by Beth Robbins**. Beth has an MA from Bread Loaf and (almost!) an MLitt. She is also the author of the memoir *A Grief Sublime,* and stars in the film *Sproutland*, which is inspired by her book. She'll be reading, answering questions, and showing a clip from her film. Books will be available for purchase. Also- drinks! We hope you'll join us. 7:30pm.

There is still no COVID on campus. Maybe you all should get out more. Or maybe you've all got those impenetrable super-strength immune systems you get when you spend all day in a school. Anyway, good job everyone.

Degree Days are still happening. You know what to do now- just be polite and don't get in the way.

And finally, **a quick reminder about guests on campus**. Bread Loaf Headquarters would like us all to remember that guests are not officially allowed at campus meals and events unless they have been officially registered. (Officially registered= uploaded vaccine information into that complicated system that gave you a headache in April.) Please understand that it's not personal- we promise that we like your family, we really do! We just don't want them to breathe on anyone, especially not someone who is currently trying to finish that final paper on *Beowulf*.

And finally, some packing/shipping advice!

Did you buy too many books at Blackwells? Yeah, us too. We also bought three pairs of shoes. There are a few options for how to deal with this:

1) Pack up your things and go to the porter's lodge. They can ship it home for you. This is convenient, but might be expensive.
2) Bring your things to Ryman Stationers on Queen Street, which has a DHL branch. They usually ship by volume, not weight- and they'll give you a box. So it still will be expensive, but at least you'll know how much debt you're accruing before you have everything packed.
3) Donate it to the office. We always have a nice random collection of stuff people left behind. Speaking of which, you probably have our fan. (You can bring it back before you leave.)
4) Donate it to Oxfam (across the street or on Broad.)
5) Shove it into your suitcase. No, shove it harder. Damn, maybe if you bought one of those packing cubes…maybe if you rearrange your shoes?...Maybe if you just buy a new suitcase? Crap. Also, the airline is going to charge you an extra weight fee. You know that, right?

T H E (Penultimate) **P A N I C U L U M**

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 11, Monday the 1st of August, 2022

Calendar:

Monday, August 1st

7:30pm A Conversation and Reading with Beth Robbins, Deep Hall

Wednesday, August 3rd

Quiz Night, Deep Hall!

Thursday, August 4th

6:00pm, Senior Picnic, Grove Quad

Friday, August 5th

2:00pm, Commencement Rehearsal (for Seniors)

Saturday, August 6th

4:30pm Seniors arrive to prepare for commencement, 5:00pm ceremony

Simon is opening up Deep Hall especially for tonight's event, **A Conversation and Reading with Beth Robbins**. Beth wrote the memoir *A Grief Sublime,* and stars in the film *Sproutland*, which is inspired by her book. She'll be reading, answering questions, and showing a clip from her film. This is a great chance to hear the experiences of a Loafer who has published her work! Books will be available for purchase. Also- drinks! We hope you'll join us. 7:30pm.

In other news, the whole supply chain is massively messed up. The Port of Dover is a disaster, the transit system is reeling from train strikes, and oh yeah, I guess there's a t-shirt shortage because so many people needed Lioness shirts. This is important because it means that **the Bread Loaf T-shirts are delayed.** We're really sorry. We're going to have them on Friday, but we don't know what time. You can pay us whenever you want, though. In cash, in the office.

Speaking of cash, **Seniors, you can pay us for your gown and guests whenever you want. £20 for the gown, £38.25 for each guest.** (We worked hard to bargain down the gown price for you! And remember that the very specific price of £38.25 includes a whole lot of alcohol.) Pay in cash in the office. Joan is requesting lots of coins in anticipation of making change for you.

Speaking of gowns, you should know that **the traditional Oxford dress regulations do not apply to Bread Loaf Commencement.** You don't need to wear all black subfusc. You can be a good old American rugged individualist and wear whatever color socks you damn well please. (But be aware that these gowns are open in the front, so whatever you wear will be fully visible to all.)

The Senior Picnic is not just for seniors. It's for all students and people in the community, including Lincoln Staff. Seniors, you can bring your guests! There will be drinks and various grilled items, and nothing even remotely resembling a hot finger buffet. It's at 6pm.

You should tip your Scout before you leave. We recommend anywhere between £10 and £20 for their services this summer. (Maybe depending on how much of a mess you left for them to manage?) The easiest thing is to leave the money in your room when you leave. (But this may mean that you need to plan ahead and set aside that money for tipping purposes.)

"But wait!" you say. "Why so much fuss over commencement and end-of-term events. I haven't even finished my final paper. And it's giving me a massive stress headache." Don't worry. The virtual Macrorie Writing Center is open for you. Sign up for a session here.

And finally…

There are still no active COVID cases on campus. Woot! Keep it up.

T H E (Final) **P A N I C U L U M**

Bread Loaf School of English at Lincoln College, Oxford

Vol. 42, No. 12, Thursday the 4th of August, 2022

Calendar:

Thursday, August 4th

6:00pm, Senior Picnic, Grove Quad

Friday, August 5th

2:00pm, Commencement Rehearsal (for Seniors), Chapel.

Saturday, August 6th

4:30pm Seniors report to JCR for robing.

5:00pm Procession and Commencement Ceremony

6:00pm (approximately) Drinks Reception, Rector's Garden.

7:00pm (approximately) Commencement Dinner

After Dinner- Feel free to carouse, celebrate and drink in Deep Hall.

Sunday, August 7th

11:00am We love you, it's been fun, and now you have to leave.

The Senior Picnic is tonight. It's for all students, Lincoln staff, and guests who have tested negative for COVID (see us in the office for a lateral flow test.) It's at 6pm. Simon of Deep Hall is running it, and you'll like it.

Commencement is approaching! A few words about space…

Seniors, now is the time to have the awkward conversation with your guests about who is going to sit in the chapel and who is going to watch the streamed ceremony from Deep Hall. FYI, masks are strongly recommended in the chapel and drinks are plentiful in Deep Hall.

Non-Seniors, I'm going to have the awkward conversation with you right now. You're probably going to end up watching from Deep Hall. We just don't have a lot of space in the chapel, and we have a large senior class with many relatives who love them. If you're really intensely passionate about wanting to sit in the chapel, there will likely be a few spaces. Just please try to allow guests of seniors first priority. We're sorry. It's not personal.

If you would like to watch the ceremony remotely, you can do so via this link: https://lincoln.ox.ac.uk/bread-loaf-oxford-2022-commencement-ceremony. Feel free to pass along to your family and friends around the world. The digital program can be found here.

And now…**A long list of things that we need you to pick up from us or bring back to us! (Preferably today or tomorrow.)**

- **T-shirts and Tote bags** have arrived! Joan has sorted them meticulously into piles for each person, according to their order. And now you can go one more day without doing laundry!
- **Money (makes the world go 'round).** Please pay for your gowns, guests and t-shirts by tomorrow, in pounds, in cash, in the office.
- **Fans and Lamps** can come back to us so we can pack them up for next year. If you bought a fan or lamp and would like to donate it to future generations of Loafers, we will take it.
- Matter of fact, you can give us **anything you bought and think future Loafers might use**. Laundry detergent, hair dryers, tea kettles, paperbacks, guidebooks, art supplies, gin…
- **Your Course Evaluations**. These need to be mailed back to Vermont. We'll do the mailing, but we'd like them as soon as possible so we can send them on their way.

FYI, if you're feeling sad about not wearing traditional Oxford subfusc at graduation, just remember that **Middlebury has its own weirdly arcane commencement-related traditions,** and you DO get to take part in those. Your Painter's Cane will arrive in the mail sometime in the next few months, probably just when you've entirely forgotten about it.

One more reminder that you should tip your Scout before you leave. £10 and £20, and you can leave it in your room when you go (or hand it to them if you see them in person.)

Nobody at BLOX has gotten COVID in the last three weeks. Please don't get it now, OK?

Thanks for a great six weeks everyone. Safe travels. Happy graduation! Come back soon.